

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 7-9, 12, 14 and 23-35 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 and claim 8 was amended. Claim 3 and 7 were canceled. No claims were added. Claim 1 was amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable claim 3 and claim 7. Claim 8 was amended to correct claim dependency and not in response to any art rejection. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks Examiner Zia for all the courtesies extended Applicant's representative during the November 1, 2006 telephone interview. During the interview, Examiner Zia indicated that the above amendment to claim 1 incorporating subject matter from allowed dependent claim 3 and claim 7 would overcome the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102 and result in claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 12, 14, and 34 being allowable. Examiner Zia also agreed to enter the above amendments after final.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner Zia for indicating claims 23-33 and 35 are allowed and claims 3, 7, and 8 are allowable. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3. Claim 3 has been canceled. Dependent claims 2, 4, 9, 12, 14, and 34 are dependent upon claim 1. Therefore, claims 2, 4, 9, 12, 14, and 34 are also allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. Applicants respectfully request Examiner Zia enter the above amendments. Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims 1-4, 7-9, 12, 14 and 23-35 pending in the subject application are now in condition for allowance.

III. Objection to the Claims

The Examiner has stated that claims 3, 7, and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter from dependent claim 3. Claim 7 has been amended to correct claim dependency. Claims 7 and 8 are dependent upon an allowable base claim. Thus, the objection to claims 7 and 8 has been overcome.

IV. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over *Liao* and is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

/Mari Stewart/

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